Amendment and Response

USSN: 10/550,706

Attorney Docket No.: 20496-490

Page 2 of 8

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

- 1. (Currently Amended) An annealing rack comprising at least one annealing rack element and at least one annealing basket, which is removably placed in the at least one annealing rack element and the shape of the at least one annealing basket is designed for a particular annealing stock, wherein each of the at least one annealing rack element has at least one rest and corner supports projecting upward from corners of the at least one rest, and wherein the at least one rest and the corner supports are connected to one another with play.
- 2. (Previously Presented) The annealing rack according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one annealing rack element is implemented so that the at least one annealing rack element is stackable one on top of another.
- 3. (Canceled)
- 4. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim [[3]] 1, wherein in the at least one annealing rack element, the corner supports are connected to the at least one rest and/or to one another using rack struts.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim [[3]] 1, wherein the at least one rest and the corner supports are detachably connected to one another.
- 6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Previously Presented) The annealing rack according to Claim 1, wherein

Amendment and Response

USSN: 10/550,706

Attorney Docket No.: 20496-490

Page 3 of 8

the at least one annealing rack element is provided with means for detachable fixing of the at least one annealing basket.

- 8. (Previously Presented) The annealing rack according Claim 1, wherein the at least one annealing basket has a basket floor having upwardly projecting basket supports.
- 9. (Previously Presented) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein in the at least one annealing basket, the basket supports are connected to the basket floor and/or to one another using basket struts.
- 10. (Previously Presented) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein the basket floor and the basket supports are connected to one another detachably.
- 11. (Previously Presented) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein the basket floor and the basket supports are connected to one another with play.
- 12. (Previously Presented) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein wire clips are attached detachably to the basket floor and/or the basket supports and/or the basket struts.
- 13. (Previously Presented) The annealing rack according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one-annealing basket is provided with means for detachable fixing on the at least one annealing rack element.
- 14. (Currently Amended) The annealing rack according to Claim [[3]] 1, wherein the at least one rest, the corner supports, and the rack struts of the at least one annealing rack element are detachably connected to one another.
- 15. (Canceled)

Amendment and Response

USSN: 10/550,706

Attorney Docket No.: 20496-490

Page 4 of 8

16. (Previously Presented) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein the basket floor, the basket supports, and the basket struts of the at least one annealing basket are connected to one another detachably.

- 17. (Previously Presented) The annealing rack according to Claim 8, wherein the basket floor, the basket supports, and the basket struts of the at least one annealing basket are connected to one another with play.
- 18. (New) An annealing rack comprising at least one annealing rack element and at least one annealing basket, which is removably placed in the at least one annealing rack element and the shape of the at least one annealing basket is designed for a particular annealing stock, wherein

each of the at least one annealing rack element has at least one rest and corner supports projecting upward from corners of the at least one rest,

in the at least one annealing rack element, the corner supports are connected to the at least one rest and/or one another using rack struts, and

the at least one rest, the corner supports, and the rack struts of the at least one annealing rack element are connected to one another with play.